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Unit 1

Course Overview



Course Overview

Welcome to IS-292, *Disaster Basics*. This course is designed so that you can move at your own pace. You will remember the material best if you take your time. As an estimate, you might expect to spend 30 minutes to 1 hour on each unit.

Purpose

The purpose of IS-292, *Disaster Basics*, is to provide a basic knowledge of incident response and recovery operations, starting with the declaration process through the Joint Field Office (JFO) programs and management. The course describes major requirements, important features, and dynamics of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster programs and activities.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- List three significant dates in the development of disaster assistance since 1950.
- Describe the purpose and function of the Stafford Act.
- Describe the roles of the local, Tribal, State, and Federal governments in responding to a declared incident.
- List the steps in the declaration process.
- Give three examples of assistance available for non-declared incidents.
- Explain the relationship between the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the National Response Plan (NRP), and the Incident Command System (ICS).
- List three features of ICS.
- Explain the role and structure of the Command Staff.
- Explain the role and structure of the General Staff.
- Explain the purpose and the components of the Incident Action Plan (IAP).
- List the key functions of the Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration Sections.
- State the purpose of the Individual Assistance (IA), Public Assistance (PA), and Hazard Mitigation (HM) programs.

Completing the Course

Each unit of the course begins with a **Check Your Knowledge** section. You can use these questions to assess your mastery of the topics covered in each unit. This will help you determine what areas require particular attention. This approach will enable you to tailor the course so it matches your level of knowledge on the topics covered.

The course includes a final exam which is a separate link on the same Web page as the course materials. To save time, it is recommended that you download and print the final exam, circle your answers on the exam, and then complete the online answer sheet for electronic submission. Your test will be evaluated and the results will be mailed to you within a few weeks. If you score 75% or higher, a certificate of completion will be mailed to you.

For any questions related to the course, please send an e-mail directly to trainwebmaster@dhs.gov or contact:

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